
Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Florida, including:

- county supervisor of elections office
- driver's license offices
- public assistance offices
- offices serving persons with disabilities
- public libraries
- centers for independent living
- armed forces recruitment centers
- online at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us>

If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Division of Elections in Florida's Department of State:

Department of State
Division of Elections
Room 1801, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
(850) 488-7690

or e-mail questions to:
DOE@mail.dos.state.fl.us

or

VoteInfo@mail.dos.state.fl.us

If the Division of Elections is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I am incarcerated in Florida?

If you are a resident of Florida, and you have been convicted of a felony by any court, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated.

If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Florida, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. Consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Florida, your civil rights, including your right to vote, are suspended when you are convicted of a felony. You may have your civil rights restored by obtaining a full pardon, conditional pardon, or restoration of civil rights from the Governor of Florida.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you were convicted of a federal crime that would be a felony in the state of Florida, you may not vote in Florida unless your civil rights have been restored. A felony is any criminal offense that if committed in Florida would be punishable under the laws of Florida by death or imprisonment in the state penitentiary. The Governor of Florida cannot issue a pardon for a federal crime, but he can restore your Florida voting rights.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Florida voters even if the conviction occurred in another state. If you were convicted of a crime that would be a felony in the state of Florida, you may not vote in Florida unless your civil rights have been restored. The Governor of Florida cannot issue a pardon for a conviction from another state's court, but he can restore your Florida voting rights.

How do I obtain a restoration of civil rights?

In Florida, the Board of Executive Clemency, which consists of the Governor and his Cabinet, has the power to grant pardons and restore civil rights. Applications are processed by the Office of Executive Clemency.

In order to apply for clemency, you must complete an application and submit it to the Office of Executive Clemency. To receive an application, contact the Office of Executive Clemency:

Coordinator, Office of Executive Clemency
2601 Blairstone Road
Building C, Room 229
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2405
(850) 488-2952 (voice)
(850) 488-0695 (fax)

In order to be eligible to have your civil rights restored, you must have completed all sentences imposed and all conditions of supervision must have expired or been completed, including parole, probation, community control and conditional release. If you were convicted in federal court or in another state, you must also be a legal resident of the State of Florida at the time the application is filed, considered, and acted upon.

If you have questions or need assistance with your application, you can contact the Department of Corrections, Office of Community Corrections at (850) 487-3865 or by e-mail at co-supervision@mail.dc.state.fl.us

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Florida's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Florida, you must be a U.S. citizen and a legal resident of Florida and the county in which you want to vote. You must be at least 18 years of age to vote, but you may preregister on or after your 17th birthday. You must not have been adjudicated mentally incompetent by any court.

When do I need to register to vote?

You may register to vote in Florida throughout the year. To be eligible to vote in an upcoming election, you must register to vote before the registration book closes, which is normally 29 days prior to the election.